

# RESOURCES

NATURE, HISTORY AND HORTICULTURE IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

VOLUME 6, NO. 2 SPRING 2006

## Heading Down the Forgotten Road

**Parks Volunteer Joyce Moore Confronts Slave Interpretation**

*Sully Historic Site in western Fairfax County features the home of Richard Bland Lee, first congressman from Northern Virginia and uncle to Robert E. Lee. It was also home to generations of slaves even before Lee built his house, from colonial times up to the Civil War.*

At Sully Historic Site, the families on tour gather around docent Joyce Moore and give her their full attention. She leads them down "The Forgotten Road," an area of Sully discovered in the 1980's to have been the slave quarter. An authentically recreated slave cabin was built there in 2000. Moore's engaging style captivates the crowd as she interprets and brings to life the daily fare and tribulations of generations of enslaved people at Sully, dating back to the 1740's, a full century and more before the Civil War.

1746, from the Will of Henry Lee to Henry Lee II (Richard Bland Lee's father): "I give and bequeath to my Son, Henry... twenty slaves vizt. Tom, Dinah, Hannah, Moll, Daniel, Frank, Little Dinah, Dick and Cato, now at Neapsco Quarter and Titus, Cain, Westminster, Eave, Harry, Joe, Sabina, her Child Joe & Henry now at Salsberry plain Quarter, and at my Dwelling plantation Prue's Frank and Winney's Moll." (Westmoreland County Deeds and Wills, Book 10, p. 367)

Over the years, in the world of historic sites and museums in America, interpreting the slave experience has been minimal and glossed over, if anything was said at all. But this is changing. Historian Anthony Cohen, descended from slaves and nationally recognized for his 1,200-mile retracing of the Underground Railroad, promotes the idea that the era of slavery points to the triumph and survival of the human spirit over terrible odds.



Joyce Moore

Nevertheless, getting to the truth about the lives of enslaved individuals — their names, families, skills, where and how they survived — is a tremendous challenge, wrought from bits and pieces of archaeological findings and shreds of references in what remains of the paperwork of the slave-owners. A number of Virginia historic sites are striving to meet the challenge of authenticity in slave interpretation and confront its miseries and triumphs, providing national leadership in this area. These sites include Colonial Williamsburg, Mt. Vernon, and Sully Historic Site in Fairfax County.

Sully early history "reads like a good book... it begins, is woven and ends with enslaved people." Moore says.

At Sully, Moore fills many roles. She is a very active participant in Sully's Museum Education Program which includes the 19th Century School Center and Slave Life Center. She assists Sully's interpretive team with her own

*continued on page 10*



Recreated Slave Cabin at Sully

*"I really believe in community service as a way to upgrade your community. If there's something you want improved in your community, then you should get in there and help make things better."*

*— Volunteer Joyce Moore*

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# Spring (It's Good to Be Outdoors)

## NATURE CENTERS AND HISTORIC SITES

BURKE LAKE PARK  
7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station  
Call 703-323-6600

COLVIN RUN MILL  
10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls  
Call 703-759-2771

ELLANOR C. LAWRENCE PARK  
5040 Walney Road, Chantilly  
Call 703-631-0013

FRYING PAN PARK  
2709 West Ox Road, Herndon  
Call 703-437-9101

GREEN SPRING GARDENS  
4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria  
Call 703-642-5173

HIDDEN OAKS NATURE CENTER  
7701 Royce Street, Annandale  
Call 703-941-1065

HIDDEN POND NATURE CENTER  
8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield  
Call 703-451-9588

HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK  
3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria  
Call 703-768-2525

LAKE ACCOTINK PARK  
7500 Accotink Park Rd., Springfield  
Call 703-569-3464

LAKE FAIRFAX PARK  
1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston  
Call 703-471-5414

RIVERBEND PARK  
8700 Potomac Hills Street  
Great Falls  
Call 703-759-9018

SULLY HISTORIC SITE  
Sully Road, Chantilly  
Call 703-437-1794

Need directions or more information?  
VISIT [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks)


## RESOURCES

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### War of 1812 Muster

**May 20, Saturday, 11am-4pm.** Americans were called to arms once again to defend the new United States against the British in the War of 1812. At Sully's muster you can drill with troops, watch the cannon firing and learn the role of horses in military and civilian life. Visit with the ship's surgeon to find out about early 19th century medical practice. Dance to period tunes, play games and enjoy a puppet show created especially for Sully's Muster! Stop by the kitchen and see picnic foods prepared, and at the slave quarter hear about the extra chores a large gathering created. House tour included. \$6/adult, \$4/senior and child. Sully Historic Site, 703-437-1794

### Wetland Wednesdays at Hidden Pond

**Four-parts beginning May 3rd (8-12 yrs.), 4-5:30pm, Hidden Pond Nature Center.** Each Wednesday, a different wetland environ will be covered. Each session involves collection and identification. Getting wet, muddy and being hands-on in our studies is part of this program! Although the program ends at 5:30, interested parents and participants may stay from 5:30-6pm.

**May 3:** Springs, seeps and vernal pools,

**May 10:** the Pond,

**May 17:** the Swamp, and

**May 24:** the Pohick Creek. Reservations required. Limit 12. \$30. 703-451-9588

### Pohick Ranger Jr. at Hidden Pond

**March 24 Friday (6-8 yrs.), 4-6pm.** This three-part program gives participants plenty of hands-on nature study to explore the woodland environment. Other meeting dates and times: **4/28, 7-9pm** (explore the park after dark!) and **5/26, 4-6pm.** Reservations required. \$30. 703-451-9588.

### GARDENERS!

Turn to p.8 to read about wonderful spring programs at Green Spring Gardens.



**CALL 703-222-4664 TO REGISTER FOR THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS AT RIVERBEND PARK**

### Photography in Nature

**Saturdays, 2-3:30pm, 5 weeks.** Introduction to landscape and nature photography. \$53 Reg. code: 3572330102

### Oil Painting with Jack Warden

**Saturdays 10am-noon, starting 4/1, 8 weeks.** The main focus of the course will be on landscape painting, but the fundamentals covered will also apply to portraiture, still life, and other genres of painting. \$114 Reg. code: 3572313101

### Dragonfly Survey

**May 20 Saturday (Adults or 8+ yrs. with an adult), 10-11:30am, Riverbend Visitor Center, 703-759-9018.** Assist with Riverbend's on-going dragonfly survey by collecting cast skins (exoskeletons) along the Potomac River. Search for emerging dragonflies and you may see some early season adult dragonflies on the wing. Canceled if rain. Reservations required. FREE

### Island Hopping Kayak Tour

**May 21 Sunday (14 yrs. and up), 9:30am-noon, Riverbend Visitor Center, 703-759-9018.** Explore the islands of the serene upper Potomac River by kayak. We will get you started with the basics, and soon you will be maneuvering through the water. Kayaks provided, one person/kayak, maximum 10 people. Reservations and advanced payment required. Canceled if rain or hazardous river conditions. \$40



### EQUAL ACCESS/SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

The Fairfax County Park Authority is committed to equal access in all programs and services. Special accommodations will be provided upon request. Please call the ADA/Access coordinator at 703-324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the date services are needed.

ADA/Access Coordinator 703-324-8563 • TTY 703-803-3354 • [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ada.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ada.htm)



**The Cross Country Trail...  
It's all about Connections**

### **You are invited!**

Mark your calendars for **TRAILFEST** on May 6, 2006. **TRAILFEST** celebrates the opening of the remarkable Cross County Trail here in Fairfax County with family fun and activities across the county.



To learn more about **TRAILFEST** and all the celebration locations, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trailfest.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trailfest.htm)

### **Take a Trail Walk with the Children in Your Life**

As reported in *ParkTakes* (Spring 2006, p.5), 31 percent of America's children, ages six to 19, are overweight or obese. This significantly increases their risk for ill-health, from diabetes to stroke and heart attacks to certain cancers. "It's an epidemic of inactivity and obesity," notes Park Authority Director Mike Kane. Children love hiking and come alive in natural settings, so bring them along on a delightful spring walk.

## **THE TRAIL BUILDING FUND** **Proud Community Supporter of the** **Cross County Trail and TRAILFEST**

by Nancy Russo, Fairfax County Park Foundation



**R**unners, walkers, cyclists, families, young and old across Fairfax County are going to LOVE the new, incredible Cross County Trail (CCT), a picturesque trail meandering 40 miles through forested stream valleys. The CCT follows three stream valleys: Difficult Run from the Potomac River at Great Falls Park through Great Falls, Reston, Herndon and Oakton; Accotink Creek through Fairfax, Annandale and Springfield; and Pohick Creek through Springfield and Lorton to Occoquan Regional Park and the Occoquan River.

The Cross County Trail has been carefully routed and designed to protect fragile natural resources along these stream valleys, which are vital habitat for a diversity of wildlife. It connects over 25 parks, with RECenters, golf courses, lakes, athletic fields and courts, playgrounds, picnic pavilions, historic sites and nature centers. The Cross County Trail will give many more people access to the natural beauty and serenity of our stream valleys. It will also promote and inspire stewardship of our watersheds, which face environmental challenges such as invasive plants, the loss of tree buffers and stream bank erosion due to the increase in impervious surfaces such as roads.

**How about your company?** Join scores of Fairfax County businesses large and small as a proud community sponsor of the Cross County TRAILFEST and county trail networks. To learn more, contact [Robert.Brennan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Robert.Brennan@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-324-8581.

The Park Authority is celebrating the opening of this new trail with the Cross County TRAILFEST on May 6, 2006. TRAILFEST will bring the community together for one of the largest county-wide festivals, with activities for children, recreational adventures for all skill levels, educational encounters with nature and history, food and entertainment. All proceeds from the TRAILFEST will benefit the Fairfax County Park Foundation's Trail Building Fund.

**The Trail Building Fund** supports our community and natural areas by helping to build and maintain county trails. It is just one of the Fairfax County Park Foundation's many programs that helps to preserve and protect county heritage and quality of life. The Trail Building Fund helps with the acquisition of land that connects trails throughout the county, constructs and installs bridges over streams, and provides interpretive signs on trails that provide insight into the county's heritage and encourage stewardship.

### **To donate to the Trail Building Fund:**

**ONLINE:** Visit [fxparks.org](http://fxparks.org)

**BY MAIL:** Send your check made payable to the Fairfax County Park Foundation (please write "Trail Fund" on the memo line)

Fairfax County Park Foundation  
12055 Government Center Parkway  
Suite 404  
Fairfax, VA 22035

*The Fairfax County Park Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and all contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.*



**FCPF**

Fairfax County Park Foundation

*Preserve Protect Play*



# TAKE A WALK

*It's wildflower time, so don't miss out. Everybody, grab a pal, grab a mate, or grab the kids and take a walk in the park. A walk in the park chases away the blues, delights the kids and fills up your heart with nature's splendor and song. Not only that, it's exercise and a great alternative to going to the gym. (Note that Fairfax County parks close at dusk). Park Authority staff from the Resource Management Division shared some of their favorite walks.*

## Burke Lake and Lake Accotink Park

Walk around the lakes. You'll love it. Last year, Burke Lake Trail was selected by the American Hiking Society as one of the nation's 10 best fitness trails. Burke Lake features a joyful 4.7 mile stroll, or you can enjoy Lake Accotink's Loop Trail, which is 3.75 miles around the lake.

## Ellanor C. Lawrence Park in Centreville

The Big Rocky Run Stream Valley trail is a beautiful four-mile walk up and back beginning at Cabell's Mill. It travels along Big Rocky Run stream and is serene and quiet. In springtime, you can see deer, turtles, and wildflowers. Also, at Ellanor C. Lawrence, an enchanting spring walk would take you along Walney Creek, between Walney Visitor Center and Walney Pond. The quiet natural trail surface and the running brook complement emerging spring wildflowers, singing birds, and the greening of the forest. At the pond one may encounter nesting water birds and breeding amphibians.

## Hidden Pond Nature Center in Springfield

Starting at the Nature Center, you can take just about any trail in any direction and enjoy a beautiful walk. Extensive woodlands, Pohick Creek, trails, beautiful scenery, quiet places and abundant wildlife are all features of this park.

## Nottoway Park in Vienna

Adjacent to the ball fields on both sides of the park are woodsy trails that offer shade and beauty right in the middle of a suburban setting.

## Trillium Trek

Talk about a walk. Hidden Oaks is offering a Trillium Trek van trip to Linden, VA on April 25. Like walking in the Land of Oz, surrounded by trillium plus dozens of other native wildflowers blooming near part of the Appalachian Trail. A perfect Mother's Day adventure along a rocky path; keep an eye out for scarlet tanagers flitting above you.

In May, Hidden Oaks' Pink Lady's slippers, a native orchid, might be blooming (call the site, p.2), which makes for a great Mother's Day walk.



Sun filtering through the trees at Scotts Run

## Scotts Run Nature Preserve in Great Falls

Truly one of the most beautiful (and a bit more rugged) walks in Fairfax County, the trail goes through pristine woodlands leading right up to a waterfall, past stands of hemlocks that have remained untouched since pre-Columbian times, and over 100 species of spring wildflowers. The trailhead is just outside the Capital Beltway between Rt. 193 and

the Potomac River. It can be reached via Georgetown Pike, about a mile east of Great Falls. Limited parking.

## WANT TO GO WITH A GUIDE?

**Riverbend Bird Stroll, March 25, Saturday, (Adults), 8-10am,** Riverbend Visitor Center, 703-759-9018. Hike with a naturalist through the park's distinct habitats in search of songbirds, raptors, and others. Discover why Riverbend attracts so many different species of birds and why it is an important stopover and nesting area. Beginning birders welcome. Bring binoculars. Reservations required. FREE

**Scotts Run Wildflower Walk, April 8, Saturday, (Adults), 9:30-11:30am,** Scotts Run Nature Preserve. Call 703-759-9018 (Riverbend Park) for reservations. Spring ephemerals are blooming! Walk along the trails of Scotts Run Nature Preserve in search of spring beauty, Virginia bluebells and many more lovely wildflowers of these rich woods. Meet in the West Parking lot. Wear sturdy hiking boots or shoes. Canceled if rain. Reservations required. FREE

**Geology and Wildflower Hike: Difficult Run to Riverbend Park, April 21, Friday (Adults), 9am-2pm,** Riverbend Visitor Center, 703-759-9018. The geology and botany of the Potomac Gorge are two reasons why The Nature Conservancy named the area *one of the most significant natural areas in the eastern United States*. This four-mile hike looks at some defining geologic features and the abundance of common and unusual spring ephemerals. Reservations and advanced payment required by 4/13. \$15

# “Things I Love About Volunteering”

## Hooked on Birds

I love meeting new people and introducing them to bird watching. I love getting people hooked on birds so they come to realize how special birds are and how important it is that we protect them. Being able to give someone a good look at a bird they have never seen before in their life is a thrill.

— **JACK WRIGHT**,  
Riverbend Park Program  
Leader since 2002



Patrick O'Neill teaches archaeology to children from the Mennonite community.

## The Way Their Eyes Light Up

What I love about volunteering at Hidden Oaks is the way the little kids' eyes light up when they see the animals. It seems their birthday has come early and they just can't sit still!

— **ALICIA GOERTEL**  
Hidden Oaks Nature  
Center Junior Park  
Naturalist since 2003  
(Alicia is a teen volunteer.)

## American Ingenuity



Mary Dettra

I've been a volunteer at Colvin Run Mill Historic Site for over 10 years. Having been raised in the West Virginia mountains, I love helping children understand the importance of their history and sharing with them my appreciation for American ingenuity and traditional tools and techniques. It's so much fun introducing visitors, as well as family and friends, to the impressive technology of the grand old water-powered mill.

— **MARY DETTRA**, Colvin Run Mill  
Docent since 1995

## Enthusiasm for Life

As a retired senior citizen, volunteering enables me to do something interesting, constructive and satisfying. It provides an incentive to get out of the house, be active and enjoy meeting and dealing with new folks. Lastly, I love driving the tractor for the hayride at Frying Pan Farm. It permits me to meet and interact with many young folks and to reciprocate in their enthusiasm for life, which is something that often diminishes or gets lost as one ages.

— **DAVE CHARVONIA**, Frying Pan Farm Park  
Hayride Driver since 1998

## Helping People Live Out Their Dreams

As a career archaeologist, I now volunteer doing public outreach. I do archaeology interpretive programs for the public to see where they have come from, what their ancestors did, how they lived and died. I feel archaeologists owe it to the public to let them see the incredible artifacts that we find and how we do it. After all, getting to see something that *no one alive has ever seen*, working with people that love nature and the past, and helping people live out their dreams through archaeology are priceless gifts I try to pass on.

— **PATRICK O'NEILL**, Cultural Resource Management  
and Protection Volunteer since 1997

## A Sense of Wonder

I feel that my job is to be part of a visitor's nature experience. They arrive excited and full of questions. I love chatting with everyone and helping them to find answers which enrich their visit. It's all about fostering a sense of wonder and enthusiasm for the natural world. My volunteering also allows me the opportunity to grow as I learn right along with the visitors.



Martha Orling

— **MARTHA ORLING**, Huntley Meadows Park  
Volunteer-On-Duty since 2000

*“Volunteering at our county nature centers and historic sites is the perfect antidote to the nightly news and the frenetic pace of life.”*

— **HARRY GLASGOW**, long-time park volunteer and member of the Park Authority Board

If you love being outdoors, gardening, storytelling, arts and crafts, history, wildlife, archaeology, working with people and being creative, then become a park volunteer.

Join our dynamic volunteer staff today by visiting [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks) or calling 703-324-8750.



# HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK

## A Nearby Place that Feels Far Away...

By Carolyn Gamble, Site Manager and Melissa Gaulding, Program Director

*When you steer away from buildings and buses on the busy Route 1 corridor, turning into Huntley Meadows Park and immediately hearing a woodpecker call or seeing a fox trot along, your shoulders relax. You walk through the sun-dappled woods and into the open view of the central wetland. Red-winged blackbirds call and display, a bald eagle soars overhead and you feel far away from life's hustle and bustle. The park is only minutes away from downtown Washington, DC, yet it feels like the middle of a calm and beautiful nowhere. Welcome to Huntley Meadows Park!*



### 1. Water Treatment Plant

What?! Yes! Huntley Meadows Park has 800 acres of wetland, acting as a giant filter, trapping debris and pollutants before they reach the Potomac River. Thick mats of wetland plants slow the vast amounts of storm water that rush into the park from surrounding streets, preventing floods. And the water leaving Huntley Meadows Park is cleaner than when it flowed in.

### 2. Nature's Engineers

Beavers are remarkable mammals. They innately understand the dynamics of water, building dams of logs and mud in precisely the right place to block a creek and create a pond. This skill enables them to construct their live-in lodges with underwater entrances for added protection. Beavers are perfectly adapted to aquatic life, with webbed hind feet and paddle-like tails to aid in swimming, continuously-growing front teeth for gnawing saplings, oil-producing glands to protect fur from constant soaking, and the ability to close ear and nostril openings to keep out water. Perhaps you will see them from the boardwalk.



### 3. Wildlife Watching

One visitor described the central wetland with its half-mile boardwalk trail as a "reverse zoo." Since people are confined to the boardwalk, turtles, frogs, ducks, muskrat and the occasional beaver go about their business nearby, having habituated to human presence. This makes for wildlife watching that is hard to beat.

### 4. WETLANDS AWARENESS DAY

Every year on the first Sunday in May, the park celebrates the beauty and wonder of these critical habitats. Engaging activities encourage visitors to learn about the complex nature of wetlands, and how valuable they are to both animals and people. The event welcomes as many as 1,000 visitors, who meet visiting raptors and reptiles, watch musical performances, and enjoy fun games about wetlands.

*Mark your calendars for May 7th!*

### 5. Volunteers Passionate About Fairfax County's Environment

Whether they are teaching children, greeting visitors, monitoring nest boxes or cleaning a stream, the 100+ volunteers at Huntley Meadows Park all share a passion for the environment both natural and cultural. Two award-winning citizen groups, the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park and the Friends of Historic Huntley, provide additional ways for people to have a voice and make a difference.



Photo: Charles Lepple

## 6. Wetland Classroom

Nobody knows wetlands like the naturalists of Huntley Meadows! Leading school tours, informing the general public, and exploring with scouts, the park's staff are both natural teachers and teachers of nature. Each one brings a different expertise and fresh viewpoints to the wide range of programs offered on-site and off.

## 7. Wood Duck Homes and Brushpiles

Active resource management has been ongoing at Huntley Meadows Park since its beginning in 1975. Nestboxes for bluebirds and wood ducks are maintained and monitored by volunteers. Park staff ensures habitat diversity with a schedule of meadow mowing and brush clearing. After the brush is cut, it is put in piles to provide cover for birds, rabbits and other wildlife. Invasive plant control, water quality monitoring, stream restoration, wildlife and plant population studies and long range wetland planning are all important components of Huntley Meadows resource management practices.



## 8. Delightful Programs All Year Long for Children and Adults

Swamp serenade. Tree identification. Dragonflies. Bat-watching. Birds and Bagels. Snake and turtle programs. Guided birding walks. Wild-flower walks. Owl Outings and more... *What would you like to learn about this year?*

## 9. Historic Huntley

Historic Huntley, a Federal period villa built circa 1825, sits a half-mile up the hill from the park's entrance. Built by George Mason IV's grandson, Thompson F. Mason, the house was a secondary home on land that included what is now Huntley Meadows Park. The exterior is soon to be restored to its 1825 appearance. More funds are needed to complete the interior. Currently the house is open to the public only two times a year; however, once the house is restored, tours, school field trips and special events will give visitors a unique look at 19th century life. **The next Open House is Sunday, May 21 from 2-4 pm.**

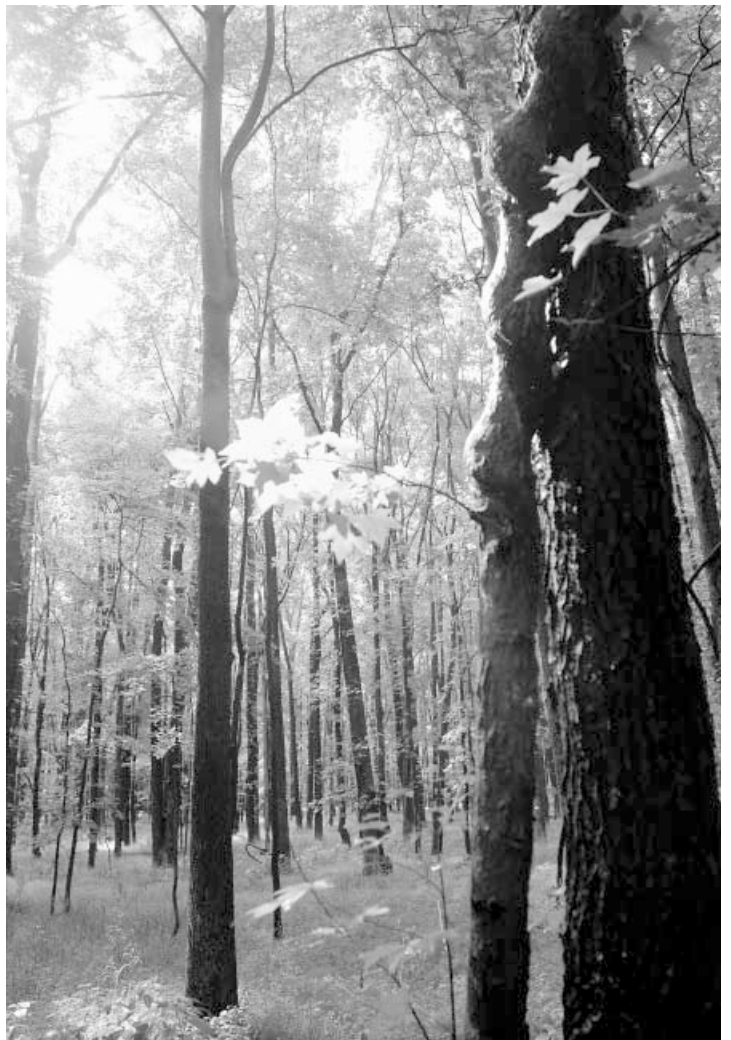
## 10. Never the Same Place Twice

Every day brings different colors, sounds, and vistas to the park. Each season has varied light, and the array of animals is never the same. There are visitors who walk in the park every day, reporting their sightings back to the staff. One day there might be bullfrogs and water snakes. The next will reveal a green heron hunting along the water's edge while a snapping turtle cruises deeper water. A deer steps delicately behind the pinkster azaleas, and an ovenbird flips leaves in its search for food. The park is ever-changing, with new experiences every day.

To learn more about visiting Huntley Meadows or to sign up for programs, see *ParkTakes*, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley), or call Huntley Meadows Park at 703-768-2525.

Huntley Meadows is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Tuesdays, when the park is closed. Most holidays open noon to 5 p.m., call ahead.

**Directions:** Huntley Meadows Park may be reached by taking Beltway Exit 177A which is Richmond Highway or Route 1 south for three and a half miles to a right on Lockheed Boulevard. The park entrance is approximately three blocks down on the left at Harrison Lane.



Friends of Huntley Meadows Parks is  
[www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org](http://www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org)



# WHAT WOULD SPRING BE WITHOUT GREEN SPRING GARDENS?

## KIDS' PLOTS

### NEW! Kids' Garden Program

Kids, do you enjoy sprouting seeds, growing vegetables, planting flowers, exploring the soil, making crafts, and other garden fun? If you're 8 to 12 years old, you can join this unique garden program at Green Spring Gardens. Receive garden lessons and activities and tend your kids' garden. **Saturdays, 1-2:30pm from April 1 through June 24**, from seed to harvest! Call Green Spring Gardens Children's Programs at **703-642-5173** for more information. \$100/student (scholarships available). This is a collaborative project of Green Spring Gardens and Master Gardeners.



The Garden Market

## GARDEN MARKETS

### Green Spring Garden Markets

**Saturdays, April 8, 15, 22, 29 and May 6, 13, 9am-1pm.** Green Spring invited a select group of local growers to provide you with shrubs, native plants and wildflowers, ornamental grasses and unusual perennials and annuals. Friends of Green Spring (FROGS) receive 10% off in the Garden Gate Plant Shop located behind the Greenhouse. The Green Spring Master Gardeners will be on hand at each Garden Market with an exhibit highlighting a particular horticultural practice such as shade gardening, composting, containers, etc. Plant shopping and free gardening information — what a great way to spend a Saturday morning!

## GARDEN STROLL AND TEAS

Alternate Thursdays, 1-3pm.  
Tours begin April 27.

Spend a relaxing afternoon with us and have tea in the garden. This is the perfect introduction to the mission and history of Green Spring Gardens, one of the premier places for horticulture in the Washington, DC area. The bimonthly guided tours of 20 demonstration

gardens are followed by a full English tea. This is great for individuals or groups. Groups may contact the Historic House to make arrangements for tours and teas on alternate Thursdays.

## CLEMATIS CONNECTIONS

### The Evolution of a Garden Legend

**May 19, Friday 9am-3pm.** Clematis are the prima donnas of garden vines. Exquisite flowers in a myriad of sizes and shapes delight gardeners with their

color, form and profusion. The symposium unlocks the secrets of proper cultivation and management of these easy care plants, explains how to weave them into the garden's fabric, explores their discovery, history and development, and reintroduces native clematis that have caused a stir in the nursery business.

**Presenters include:** Maurice Horn, owner of Joy Creek Nursery in Scappoose, Oregon ("East Meets West: The Worldwide Legacy, Twining It All Together: Growing And Designing With Clematis"); Chris Ludwig, Botanist, Virginia Natural Heritage ("Wild Clematis: A Natural History Of Native Species"); and Mikiyoshi and Tomoko Chikuma, owners of Clematis Garden in Kawasaki City, Japan ("West Meets East: The Legacy Of Kazushige Ozawa").

*For more information please call 703-642-5173. Lunch provided and clematis plants available for purchase. \$89*

## SPRING GARDEN DAY PLANT SALE

**Saturday, May 20, 9am-3pm.**

Don't miss this exciting annual tradition. More than 40 vendors of rare and unusual plants descend on Green Spring Gardens to fill your spring gardening needs! Friends of Green Spring (FROGS) receive 10% off plants in the Garden Gate Plant Shop.



## Before You Can Cook: Acquiring Foodstuffs and Kitchenware in Early America

**March 24, 2006**

George Mason University  
Fairfax, VA

### A Symposium on American Social History and Material Culture

*Before You Can Cook* explores the great variety of foods available in Early American homes and the many different methods of acquiring them. Presentations examine kitchen utensils and cooking technology, heritage and wild plants and animals, their processing, and purchased provisions.

### PRESENTERS

Gary Brumfield, Frank Clark,  
Carrie MacDougall  
*Colonial Williamsburg Foundation*  
Martha Katz-Hyman  
*Independent Consultant*  
Steve Miller, *Landis Valley Museum*  
Justin Sarafin, Gaye Wilson  
*Monticello*  
Joyce White  
*Anne Arundel Community College*

**COST:** \$65.00

*Call or Email for Advanced  
Registration*

### EMAIL:

[susan.clark@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:susan.clark@fairfaxcounty.gov)

**PHONE:** Historic Collections  
703-631-1429

### SPONSORS

Fairfax County Park Authority  
and George Mason University –  
Department of History



# The EcoSavvy Green Spring Master Gardeners

Susan McDonald, Community Horticulture Program Coordinator, Green Spring Gardens



*Ever wonder about how you can grow your garden so it blossoms in tune with Virginia's native flora, create a wild backyard habitat, start a rain garden, or banish strong pesticides from your garden shed? Then look no further than Fairfax County's team of volunteers and gardeners extraordinaire, the Green Spring Master Gardeners.*



The Green Spring Master Gardeners are one of two Master Gardening groups in Fairfax County sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension. Organized in 2001 in response to the growing demand for Master Gardener training, it's administered through the Community Horticulture office at Green Spring Gardens, which also manages the Garden Plot Rental Program and the Fairfax County Farmers' Markets.

The mission of most Green Spring Master Gardener projects is to promote responsible gardening practices with a minimal negative impact on our environment. That includes producing the popular annual EcoSavvy Gardening Symposium and Gardening Certification Program, where Fairfax County citizens can self-certify their gardens as environmentally sound. This year's symposium, held in February, featured speakers from the Virginia Native Plant Society, the Chesapeake Bay Program, Green Spring Master Gardeners, and *Organic Gardening* magazine. The event was co-sponsored by the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia.

The Green Spring Master Gardener Program has a strong educational focus. Speaking engagements at local garden clubs, homeowner's associations, and other community groups encourage good gardening practices. The group also manages the Horticulture Helpline (703-324-8556), teaches introductory gardening classes, leads garden tours, assists with the Let's Grow! Children's Garden Plot program, the 4H Ready, Set Grow! program, and much more.

To become a Green Spring Master Gardener Volunteer requires a commitment of 100 hours in the first

year. This time commitment is divided between 50 hours of specialized training in environmental horticulture and 50 hours of internship volunteering in approved horticulture education projects in the community.

After the first year, Master Gardener status is maintained by remaining active in the program as a volunteer educator for 20 hours per year and participating in eight hours of continuing education in horticulture.

The Master Gardener Volunteer training is held each fall beginning in mid-September and ending in mid-November. The training generally requires two three-hour classes per week and two Saturday classes. The current roster has over 100 active Master Gardener volunteers!

All applicants are interviewed and approximately 30 trainees are selected by the end of June. Selection criteria include the ability to commit to the training schedule with no more than three absences and adequate time and commitment to follow through on VCE approved Master Gardener volunteer projects.

If you have a love of horticulture and a desire to give back to your community, become a Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener — it's a fun and rewarding experience. To be placed on a waiting list for the Fall 2006 Master Gardener training, call **703-642-0128**. You'll be invited to an orientation meeting in April and can apply at that time.



*The Green Spring Master Gardeners are sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension, a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments. Virginia Cooperative Extension helps people improve their lives by providing research-based educational resources through a network of on campus and local extension offices and educators. To learn more about Extension programs, go to [www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu).*

personal research and is certified to conduct Sully's Forgotten Road Tour. This tour is an outdoor tour that highlights the life of Sully's slave community. She has a knack for reaching out to youth and grabbing their attention. Moore also takes part in Sully's living history programs, dressing in 18th century costume. Recently for Sully's Candlelight Tours, Moore single-handedly braved the cold temperatures and darkness to interpret the slave quarters and how enslaved people and servants celebrated the holidays.

**1785:** *"Know all men by these presents that I Richard Bland Lee... do bargain and sell unto the said Charles Turley the following Slaves (Vizt.) Patty a Negroe Girl about eleven years old and Hercules a Negro boy about nine years old..."*  
*Loudoun County Deed Book 1785-1787, pp.290-291*

Joyce has been volunteering for the parks for four years, but she has been a volunteer since she was 14 years old. "I really believe in community service as a way to upgrade your community. If there's something you want improved in your community, then you should get in there and help make things better. That's what brought me to Sully. I visited with my granddaughters some years ago and felt that when it came to the slaves' history, certain misconceptions about carefree days were being presented. That's when I decided I wanted to help make it better. Noreen McCann, the volunteer coordinator, Tammy Loxton and everyone at Sully have been incredible, welcoming and open-minded about developing this area of interpretation and presenting a more real story."

"When I lead tours, you can see the interest is there. I get so many questions, especially from children. They ask, 'But if Richard Bland Lee fought for independence and freedom, how could he still have slaves?'

Or, if you say something like, 'Richard Bland Lee built Sully,' then the children raise their hands and ask, 'All by himself?' Just like a book, if some chapters are missing, it won't be very good. We teach children that even though slavery meant free labor and more money for the slave owners, it also meant they that were enslaved, too, having to function like a prison guard and live in at the prison."

**1807:** *"Fifty Dollars Reward, Ran-away from the subscriber, a Negro man named GODFREY, below the middle stature, aged about thirty years old."*  
(January 6, 1807, *Alexandria Advertiser* from the papers of Richard Bland Lee)

Moore states, "It's good to study history so you can understand the present. But we have to preserve and present our history authentically. Sully is a microcosm for the 18th century, right up to the Civil War, when Sully supplied both the Union and Confederate armies. All the historic sites in the county are excellent places to experience American history because you can see it and feel it. They are great story books that we can step into, that enrich our modern lives."

*FROM THE GROUND UP* is an award-winning video created by Sully and other Park Authority staff in 2002 on the building of the Sully Slave Quarter and the archaeology behind it. Call Sully for more information on getting a free copy of *FROM THE GROUND UP*.

## More Historic Sites Managed by the Fairfax County Park Authority

### COLVIN RUN MILL HISTORIC SITE

10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls, VA 22066  
703-759-2771

Built in 1813, Colvin Run Mill is a mechanical engineering landmark, the sole surviving operational 19th century water-powered mill in metro Washington, DC. A circa-1900 general store sells the corn meal and whole wheat flour ground at the mill. The old Miller's House, barn and blacksmith shop provide views into the life of the Millard family who ran the mill 100 years ago.

### ELLANOR C. LAWRENCE PARK

5040 Walney Road, Chantilly, VA 20151 • 703-631-0013

The former estate of David Lawrence, founder of *U.S. News and World Report*, the park features more than 600 acres of nature trails and historic buildings. It was the meeting site for 20th century political leaders and has experienced 200 years of American history.

### FRYING PAN FARM PARK

2709 West Ox Road, Herndon, VA 20171 • 703-437-9101

Frying Pan Farm is a working farm that recreates the era of the Virginia family farm circa the 1930's. It features farm animals, wagon rides and an astounding collection of antique farm equipment and tools. Frying Pan also hosts equestrian and 4-H events.

### GREEN SPRING GARDENS

5603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, VA 22312  
703-642-5173

This beautiful 26-acre site contains 22 demonstration gardens to inspire home gardeners on practical landscaping techniques that are appropriate for metro Washington. It includes a horticultural center, a greenhouse, a two-acre native plant garden and a circa-1760s historic house.

### SULLY HISTORIC SITE

3601 Sully Road, Chantilly, VA 20151 (on Route 28)  
703-437-1794

Sully, built in 1794, is the home of Richard Bland Lee, Northern Virginia's first representative to Congress. The house is augmented by a restored kitchen/laundry, smokehouse, stone dairy, formal and kitchen gardens and a representative slave quarter. Tours are held regularly, along with Civil War-period living history programs.

### HISTORIC PROPERTIES RENTAL SERVICES

For contemporary or costumed weddings, family reunions, off-site meetings and other gatherings, you can rent one of Fairfax County's beautiful historic properties. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/weddings.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/weddings.htm) or call 703-938-8835.

**Historic Properties include:** Cabell's Mill • Clark House  
Dranesville Tavern • Grange Hall • Hunter House  
Old Schoolhouse • Stone Mansion • Wakefield Chapel



# Spring Almanac Highlights for Spring Walks

By Jim Pomeroy, Site Manager at Hidden Pond Nature Center

*For the past 30 years at Hidden Pond Nature Center, we have been jotting down on calendars some of our observations as we explore our park. From marking the first flowers of spring to the arrival of winter resident birds, our notes keep us tuned in to nature's activities. Here are some of nature's spring mileposts that we welcome year after year.*



Springtime at Hidden Pond Bridge

## MARCH Daffodils and Frog Operas

Early in March, the first fox pups are born and the vixen may carry them to new den. Red maple buds swell while red-shouldered hawks engage in courtship flight. We now gain over two minutes of sunlight each day, and hungry squirrels feed on swollen tree buds and flowers. Wood frog males look for thawed woodland puddles and if they find one, make quiet quacking sounds to attract mates. Daffodils and spring beauties bloom. Warm weather brings out mourning cloak butterflies. By the third week in March, it's a frog opera as spring peepers, pickerel frogs, American toads, chorus frogs, and leopard frogs begin their spring croaking. As March concludes, tent caterpillars hatch exactly with the emergence of tender green leaves of wild cherry trees and spring thunderstorms wake up the snakes.

## APRIL Pink Lady's Slippers and Bluebells

In early April, red maple flowers now turn into wine-colored winged seeds. Shad bushes in bloom remind us that the shad migration is on. It's the peak of American toad spawning frenzy. The forest floor is now carpeted with spring beauties, trout lilies, cut-leafed toothwort, and Virginia bluebells. Canada geese are nesting while white-throated sparrows depart for Canada.



Bluebells

By mid-month, oak trees release tons of pollen and honey bees swarm. Dogwood blossoms peak and morel hunters head for their secret places. Tiger swallowtail butterflies emerge from pupa, mate and lay their eggs on wild cherry trees. As April draws to a close, gold finch males molt into dazzling yellow plumage and hummingbirds and chimney swifts arrive. Wood thrushes fill the forest with the sound of summer.

## MAY Mountain Laurel and Fledglings



Huntley Meadow Turtles

Young possums, as many as 13, emerge from mother's pouch. Pink lady's slippers stay in bloom while black locust trees bloom with white, pea-like fragrant flowers. The call of the gray tree frog, a ragged drawn-out chirp, may be heard coming from tree tops. Luna moths emerge from the cocoons in which they spent the winter; adults mate, lay eggs on walnut, persimmon and hickory trees, then die. Young cardinals and robins fledge (leave the nest). White-eyed vireos arrive and spring ephemerals wither and are absorbed back into the forest floor. Tiny American toads about one centimeter long, the result of this year's spawning, leave the water; many will be eaten by birds. Mountain laurel in bloom. Shad berries ripen and robins and catbirds seem reckless in their determination to eat every last berry.

## JUNE Lightning Bugs and Day Lilies

With June, we see lightning bugs flashing. There are several species in our area, each with its own flash color and frequency. Box turtles lay eggs in soil in a sunny location. Linden trees bloom, their fragrant flowers attracting pollinating insects. Yarrow and daisy fleabane also bloom. Strawberries ripen and day lilies bloom; each flower lasts only one day but there are ranks of buds in reserve, each waiting its turn. Juvenile birds now learn to fly and a few learn to survive; mortality is normally over 90%. June 21st is summer solstice; the sun will rise in the northeast at about 5:43 a.m. and set in the northwest at 8:37 p.m. Black-eyed Susans grace our roadsides and blackberries ripen. Cicadas buzz all day and katydids rasp their name all night.



Day Lily

The Park Authority Naturalist Line is 703-324-8580  
Call if you have a question about our county park's natural resources.

☐ Please enter my **FREE** subscription to **Resources**.

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

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**MAIL TO:** Resources/RMD, Suite 936  
12055 Government Center Parkway • Fairfax, VA 22035-1118  
or: subscribe through our website at  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources)

## Invasive Management Area Volunteer Program

Become a volunteer with the Invasive Management Area program (IMA). The Invasive Management Area program is volunteer-led pilot project designed to reduce some pesky invasive plants on our parklands. Watershed stewardship training (called the Neighborhood Ecological Stewardship Training) at the beginning of the program will 'certify' volunteer leaders to restore parkland. The Park Authority is looking for 20 leaders who will commit to four work-days, along with project volunteers. The program begins late March and ends in October.

**CALL 703-324-8681 TO LEARN MORE.**

*The Invasive Management Area program is a partnership between the Fairfax County Park Authority and Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District.*



## JAMESTOWN EVENTS!

VISIT  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/jamestown2007](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/jamestown2007)  
OR see the Events and History section of *ParkTakes*

## OPENING CEREMONY for Mt. Air Historic Site

**April 28 at 10am**

Be there for the dedication of Mt. Air Historic Site, a beautiful, brand new park. Mt. Air was an 18th century estate, donated to the Park Authority by the last owner. Although the estate house is now gone, Mt. Air has been turned into a 15-acre cultural resource park, complete with preserved and stabilized ruins of the house, walkways, gardens and interpretive signs on the site's history.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take Fairfax County Parkway south past Rt. 95, until it becomes Rt. 7900 (Franconia Parkway). Take a right onto Beulah Road. From Beulah, take another right onto Telegraph Road, then take a left at Accotink Road to Fisher Woods. Go right at Fisher Woods, then follow the signs. The park will be on your left down a dirt road. Parking available.



Photo: Jean Agee



12055 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, Virginia 22035-1118

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